

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application.

Figures 13, 14, and 15 have been amended to include the legend -- Prior Art -- as requested by the Office Action. Figure 5 has been amended to remove reference numeral "45." Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings are in full compliance with all rules and regulations, including MPEP §608.02(g) and 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

The Specification has also been amended as suggested by the Office Action, to remove the incorporation by reference of a foreign application, to clarify the invention, and to use reference names consistently throughout the Specification. Although the Office Action suggests that the legend --(prior art)-- be included after the figure numbers on Page 8, lines 16, 18, and 20, Applicant is not aware of any rules that require it to do so. Therefore, the particular amendment requested by the Office Action has not been made; it is clear from the legends that are added through this amendment that FIGS. 13-15 are prior art. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that any objections to the Specification be withdrawn.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 has been amended to correct any perceived indefiniteness. Specifically, claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the accessories are held in a locked position by providing a second securing structure. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,415,478 (Watanabe). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention relates generally to a module-structure for a roof trim. As such, amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a module-structure for roof trim use comprising “wherein said attachment members are capable of being temporarily accommodated in said bracket, said bracket provided on the back side of the roof trim through openings in the roof trim so that accessories, roof trim and brackets are temporarily secured; are then aligned with the position corresponding to attachment holes in the roof panel.” The claim 1 module-structure further includes “an inserted body inserted into the attachment members, wherein said inserted body locks the connecting portions of said attachment members by insertion so that said roof trim and accessories are integrally assembled to said roof panel through said bracket.”

Watanabe relates to an assist grip attachment structure method. (Abstract). Watanabe discloses an assist grip 10 having a contractible member 16. As illustrated in FIG. 3 of Watanabe, the contractible member 16 of the assist grip 10 is inserted through an energy absorbent member 38 and a vehicle body 34. (See Col. 5, lines 36-45). A pin 20 is inserted into a hole 22 to lock the assist grip 10 into the vehicle body 34. Watanabe, however, fails to anticipate the limitations of claim 1.

Specifically, Watanabe fails to teach or suggest a module-structure comprising “attachment members formed on said accessories, wherein said attachment members are capable of being temporarily accommodated in said bracket, said bracket provided on the back side of the roof trim through openings in the roof trim so that accessories, roof trim and brackets are temporarily secured; are then aligned with the position corresponding to attachment holes in the roof panel; and are inserted into the roof panel and protruded in the fitting direction, thereby engaging connecting portions with the attachment holes of the roof panel.”

Indeed, as shown in FIG. 3 of Watanabe, and discussed above, the contractible member 16 protrudes through the energy absorbent member 38 and the vehicle body 34. The pin 20 is inserted to lock the contractible member 16 into place. Nowhere does Watanabe disclose the contractible member being temporarily accommodated in the bracket (or Watanabe's energy absorbent member 38); nor does Watanabe disclose the contractible member 16 inserted into the roof panel, thereby engaging connecting portions with the attachment holes of the roof panel *after* being temporarily secured. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over Watanabe.

Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above, and on their own merits.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe and further in view of U.S. Patent Application 2003/0094828 (Nagamoto). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every limitation of independent claim 1. As discussed above, Watanabe fails to teach or suggest a module-structure comprising "attachment members formed on said accessories, wherein said attachment members are capable of being temporarily accommodated in said bracket, said bracket provided on the back side of the roof trim through openings in the roof trim so that accessories, roof trim and brackets are temporarily secured; are then aligned with the position corresponding to attachment holes in the roof panel; and are inserted into the roof panel and protruded in the fitting direction, thereby engaging connecting portions with the attachment holes of the roof panel." Nagamoto similarly fails to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1.

Nagamoto relates to a pillar garnish fastening structure. FIG. 5 of Nagamoto discloses a grommet 55 that is inserted into an inner panel 13a of the front pillar 13. FIG. 5 of Nagamoto also discloses a press-fit pin 57 that is inserted into the grommet 55 and locks the structure into place. See FIG. 4. Nagamoto fails to teach or suggest a module-structure comprising "attachment members formed on said accessories, wherein said attachment members are capable of being temporarily accommodated in said bracket, said bracket provided on the back side of the roof trim through openings in the roof trim so that accessories, roof trim and brackets are temporarily secured; are then aligned with the position corresponding to attachment holes in the roof panel; and are inserted into the roof panel and protruded in the fitting direction, thereby engaging connecting portions with the attachment holes of the roof panel," as recited in claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 10 are allowable over the combination of Watanabe and Nagamoto.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above and on their own merits.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 5 and 13 - 15.

Attachment: Replacement sheets
 Annotated sheets showing changes

Application No.: 10/602,829

Docket No.: W0200.0128/P128

REPLACEMENT SHEETS

Application No.: 10/602,829

Docket No.: W0200.0128/P128



ANNOTATED SHEETS SHOWING CHANGES

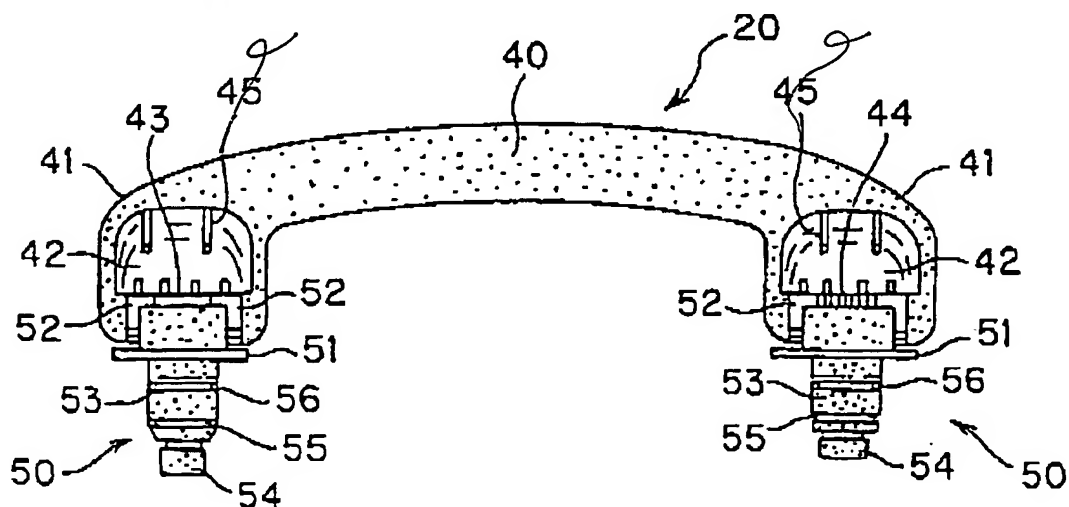




FIG.12

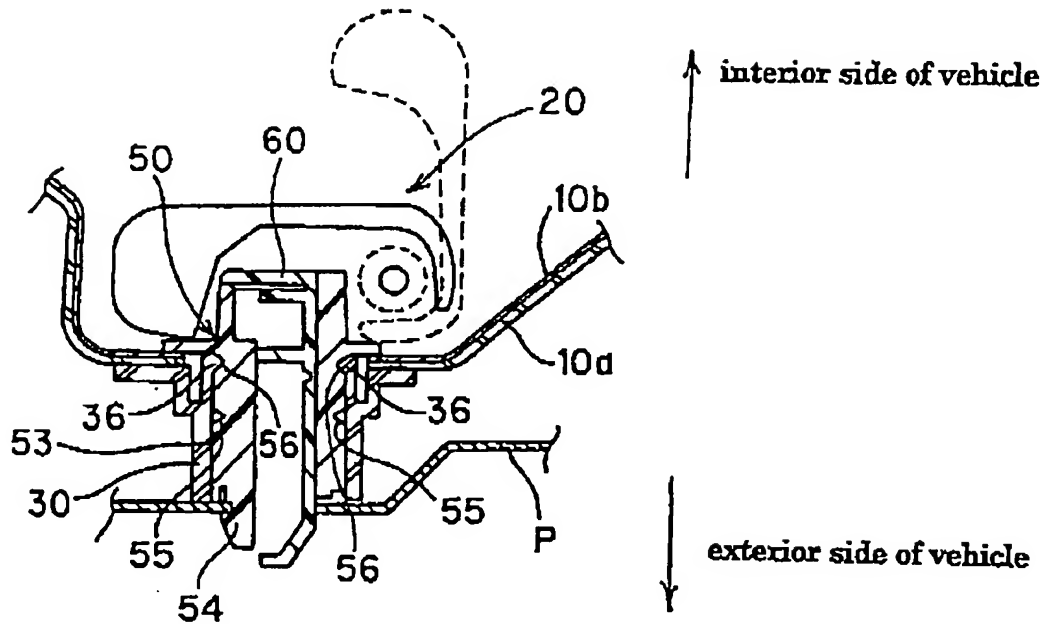


FIG.13
(PRIOR ART)

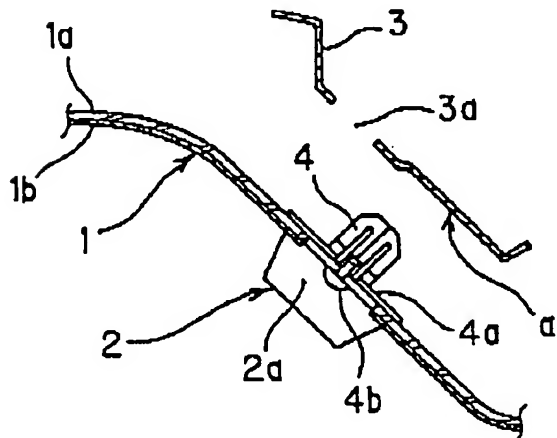




FIG.14
(PRIOR ART)

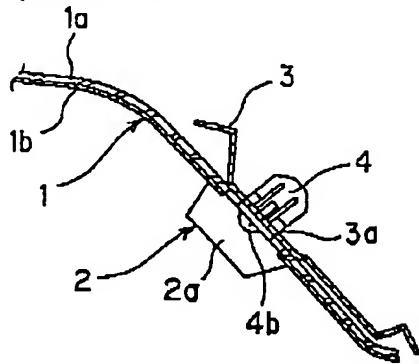


FIG.15
(PRIOR ART)

